

Testimony of

Connecticut Natural Gas Corporation and The Southern Connecticut Gas Company

To the Energy and Technology Committee on:

Bill No. 419 AN ACT REQUIRING DOCUMENTATION OF UTILITY ROAD CUTS.

Good Afternoon Senator Fonfara and Representative Nardello and members of the committee, my name is Christopher Malone and I am Regional Director of Operations for the Connecticut Natural Gas Corporation and The Southern Connecticut Gas Company. I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony to you today on Bill No. 419 AN ACT REQUIRING DOCUMENTATION OF UTILITY ROAD CUTS.

Connecticut Natural Gas Corporation and The Southern Connecticut Gas Co oppose this bill for the following reasons:

- Current law makes clear provision for the procedure used for excavations by utilities. Connecticut utility companies annually pay hundreds of thousands of dollars in permit fees to municipalities. These permits are used to notify the municipalities of the excavation and for administrative costs. This is key function in providing and maintaining Connecticut's utility service for its residents.
- Under present law the towns establish the process and permitting requirements, the Utilities pay the fees and complete the construction, and the Department of Public Utility Control (DPUC) and the Courts make sure that they are fair and reasonable. This system works.
- There will be needless added costs to all utility ratepayers.
- The State of Connecticut has legislated this system because Connecticut utility companies:
 - stand behind their work
 - are well capitalized
 - are a phone call away to repair of any deficient work, and
 - are already subject to significant State regulation through the DPUC.

I appreciate this opportunity to comment on the proposed legislation on behalf of CNG/SCG. We stand ready to work with this Committee to address the concerns that are raised and considered in the discussion of this Bill